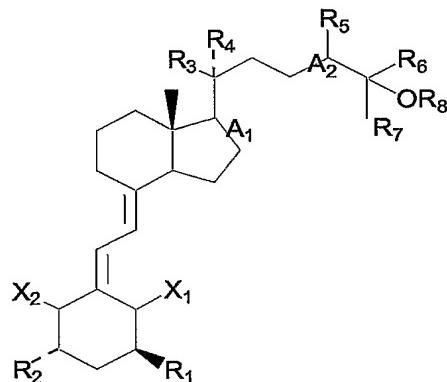


CLAIMS

1. Use of a vitamin D compound in the prevention or treatment of interstitial cystitis.
2. The use of a vitamin D compound as defined in claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of interstitial cystitis.
3. A method for preventing and/or treating interstitial cystitis by administering an effective amount of a vitamin D compound.
4. The use or method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said interstitial cystitis is characterized by the presence of symptoms of bladder dysfunction and bladder inflammation.
5. The use or method according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the vitamin D compound is administered separately, sequentially or simultaneously in separate or combined pharmaceutical formulations with a second medicament for the treatment of interstitial cystitis.
6. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a vitamin D compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for use in the prevention and/or treatment of interstitial cystitis.
7. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a vitamin D compound and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier packaged with instructions for use in the prevention and/or treatment of interstitial cystitis.
8. A vitamin D compound for use in the prevention and/or treatment of interstitial cystitis.
9. A kit containing a vitamin D compound together with instructions directing administration of said compound to a patient in need of treatment and/or prevention of interstitial cystitis thereby to treat and/or prevent interstitial cystitis in said patient.

10. The use, method, formulation, compound or kit of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said vitamin D compound is a compound of the formula:



wherein:

A_1 is single or double bond;

A_2 is a single, double or triple bond;

X_1 and X_2 are each independently H or $=CH_2$, provided X_1 and X_2 are not both $=CH_2$;

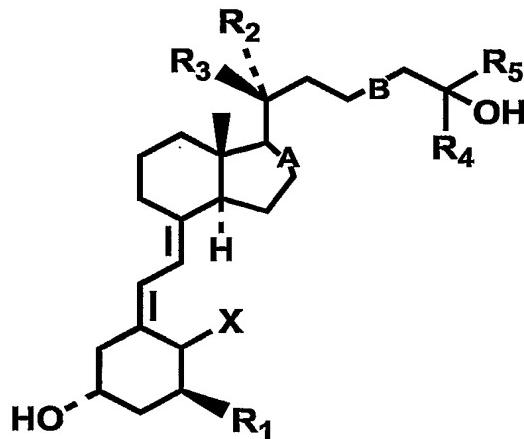
R_1 and R_2 are each independently $OC(O)C_1-C_4$ alkyl, $OC(O)$ hydroxyalkyl, $OROC(O)$ haloalkyl, OAc ;

R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are each independently hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, or haloalkyl, or R_3 and R_4 taken together with C_{20} form C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl; and

R_6 and R_7 are each independently C_{1-4} alkyl or haloalkyl; and

R_8 is H, $-COC_1-C_4$ alkyl, $-CO$ hydroxyalkyl or $-CO$ haloalkyl; and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, salts, and prodrugs thereof.

11. The use, method formulation, compound or kit of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said vitamin D compound is a compound of the formula:



wherein:

X is H₂ or CH₂

R₁ is hydrogen, hydroxy or fluorine

R₂ is hydrogen or methyl

R₃ is hydrogen or methyl provided that when R₂ or R₃ is methyl, R₃ or R₂ must be hydrogen

R₄ is methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl

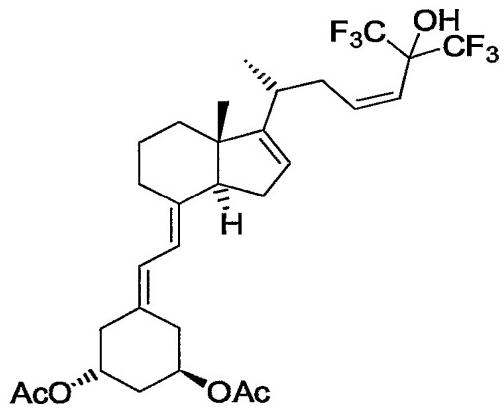
R₅ is methyl, ethyl or trifluoromethyl

A is a single or double bond

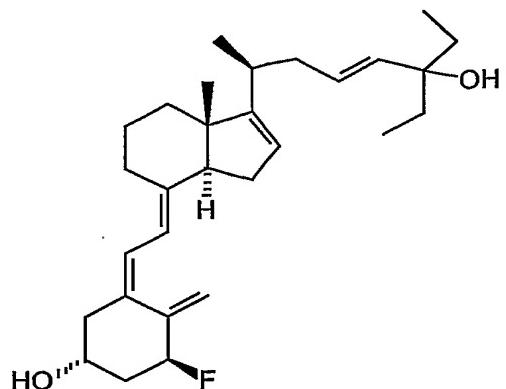
B is a single, E-double, Z-double or triple bond

12. The use, method, formulation, compound or kit according to claim 11, wherein each of R₄ and R₅ is methyl or ethyl.

13. The use, method formulation, compound or kit of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said vitamin D compound is 1,3-Di-O-acetyl-1,25-dihydroxy-16,23Z-diene-26,27-hexafluoro-19-nor-cholecalciferol, having the formula:



14. The use, method formulation, compound or kit of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said vitamin D compound is 1-alpha-fluoro-25-hydroxy-16,23E-diene-26,27-bishomo-20-epi-cholecalciferol, having the formula:



15. The use, method, formulation, compound or kit of any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein said compound is 1,3-Di-O-acetyl-1,25-dihydroxy-20-cyclopropyl-23E-ene-26,27-hexafluoro-19-nor-cholecalciferol, having the formula:.

